

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8380

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, AUG. 28-SEPT 3, 1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I--SUMMARY.

1. THE OVER-ALL LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN VIET-NAM DROPPED OFF THIS WEEK, WITH ONLY MR-1 EXPERIENCING A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS. THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING WAS LOWER AS WELL.

2. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN MR-1 SHIFTED TO NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS AS COMMUNIST FORCES CAPTURED, AT A HEAVY COST TO THESELVES, SEVERAL HILLTOP POSTS IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, THE ACTION DECREASED. GVN FORCES WERE SLOWLY REENTERING AREAS SEIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS INQUANG NAM. HOWEVER, IN QUANG NGAI, THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUED TO FOLLOW UP RECENT GAINS IN MINH LONG AND NGHIA HANH DISTRICTS BY OVERRUNNING SEVERAL OUTPOSTS SOUTH AND WEST OF NGHIA HANH DISTRICT TOWN.

3. FOR THE SECOND WEEK, MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-2 DECLINED, BOTH IN NUMBERS OF INCIDENTS AND INTENSITY. THE DECLINE WAS REFLECTED IN CASUALTY FIGURES AS CASUALTIES FOR BOTH THE GVN AND THE COMMUNISTS DROPPED. THE ARVN OFFENSIVE WEST OF BONG SON AND IN WESTERN PHU MY DISTRICT OF BINH DINH PROVINCE SLOWED ALMOST TO A STAND-STILL AND THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. THE ATTACKS ON PLEI ME CAMP AND FIRE BASE 711 IN PLEIKU CONTINUED BUT DESPITE ESPECIALLY HEAVY ATTACKS THIS WEEK BOTH CAMPS ARE STILL HOLDING. PHU YEN AND KONTUM PROVINCES WERE GENERALLY QUIET, A RARITY FOR KONTUM. OTHERWISE LIGHT ACTION IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE WAS PUNCTUATED BY A THREE-ROUND ROCKET ATTACK ON NHA TRANG AIRBASE, AND THE DESTRUCTION BY COMMUNIST FORCES OF A LATEX PROCESSING PLANT IN DIEN KHANH DISTRICT.

4. THE WEEK SAW A PAUSE IN THE THREE PRINCIPAL AREAS OF COMMUNIST MAIN FORCE PRESSURE IN MR -3 NORTHERN BIEN HOA, THE BEN CAT AREA OF BINH DUONG, AND TAY NINH. IN TAY NINH COMMUNIST

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PRESSURE TOOK THE FORM OF ABFS AND LIMITED GROUND ACTIONS. THIS PATTERN WAS ALSO FOLLOWED IN BINH DUONG AND BIEN HOA PROVINCES. AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD THE GVN HAD BEGUN A MAJOR THRUST NORTHEAST OF BIEN HOA WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PUSHING COMMUNIST FORCES OUT OF ROCKET AND ARTILLERY RANGE OF BIEN HOA AIRBASE. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF INTERDICTIONS OF LOCS DURING THE PERIOD. SEVERAL MAIN ROADS IN LONG KHANH, INCLUDING QL-1, WERE BLOCKED BY COMMUNIST FORCES THROUGHOUT AUGUST 31. RF UNITS CLEARED THE

ROADBLOCKS ON SEPT 1.

5. MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINED SHARPLY THIS WEEK THROUGHOUT THE DELTA AND CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES WERE DOWN. ACTIVITY IN KIEN PHONG REMAINED HIGH, HOWEVER. THERE WAS HEAVY GROUND ACTION AROUND TWO OBS IN KIEN VAN AND CAO LANH DISTRICTS AND THERE WERE ABFS AGAINST SEVERAL OUTPOSTS AND THE KIEN VAN DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. A JOINT POLICE/MILITARY OPERATION IN KIEN HOA RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF 54 VC AND VI. BOODY-TRAP INCIDENTS HAVE INCREASED STEADILY IN BAC LIEU AS RICE PLANTING HAS GOTTEN UNDER WAY, FORCING TROOPS TO USE DIKES FOR MOVEMENT. THERE WERE SEVERAL TERRORIST-TYPE INCIDENTS IN MR-4, INCLUDING A GRENADE EXPLOSION IN DINH THUONG WHICH KILLED THREE CHILDREN AND WOUNDED FIVE, A TNT EXPLOSION IN A COFFEE HOUSE IN CHUONG THIEN WHICH WOUNDED FOUR CIVILIANS AND ONE PF SOLDIER, AND THE ASSASSINATION OF A SUB-SUBSECTOR COMMANDER IN KIEN HOA BY A BC DISGUISED AS A MONK.

6. IN THE TWO MOST RECENT ICCS MEETINGS, POLISH AND HUNGARIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES WAS FORMALLY RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING. A HUNGARIAN PROPOSAL OFFERING A HUNGARIAN AS THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL WAS WITHDRAWN WHEN THE IRANIANS SUGGESTED THAT THE POLES WOULD THEN HAVE TO GIVE UP THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE IN KEEPING WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONAL BALANCE.

7. THE COMMUNIST BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT/TPJMC SESSIONS CONTINUED.

8. "LIBERATION RADIO" CHARGED THE GVN WITH NUMEROUS RECONNAISSANCE SORTIES OVER THE OCCUPIED PORTIONS OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE, AND TWENTY-TWO INCURSIONS WHICH VIOLATED "THE CUA VIET TERRITORIAL WATERS". THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN OF THE "PRG" BLASTED THE IRANDEL AND INDODEL FOR MAKING "UNILATERAL" ICCS PROBES. THE  
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ACCUSATION, OCCASIONED BY AN OBSERVATION OF A COMMUNIST ABF IN BINH DINH PROVINCE, CLAIMED SUCH OBSERVATIONS VIOLATE THE PARIS ACCORDS AND REFLECT A "LACK OF OBJECTIVELY AND IMPARTIALITY ON THE PART OF THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS".

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USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLUWU HI

RHHMBRACINCPACFLH MAKALAPAHHI

CINKQACAF HICKAM AFB HI

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PART II--ICCS

9. THE TWO MOST RECENT MEETINGS IN THE ICCS, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 29 AND THE PLENARY ON AUG 31, ARE CONSIDERED BY BOTH THE IRANIAN DELEGATION WHICH CHAIRED THEM AND BY THE INDONESIANS AS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE THE MINUTES FORMALLY RECORDED IN UNAMBIGUOUS TERMS POLISH AND HUNGARIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING RESUMING WORK ON INVESTIGATION REQUESTS, SET FORTH IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE ICCS PROTOCOL. AT THE DISCUSSION IN THE PLENARY ON CHOOSING A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL, A COMMUNIST BLUFF OF TENTATIVELY OFFERING A HUNGARIAN FOR THIS POSITION WAS CALLED BY THE IRANIANS, WHO NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF NATIONAL BALANCE THE POLES MIGHT THEN HAVE TO GIVE UP THE KEY POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE. ALL DELEGATIONS THEREUPON AGREED TO HAVE IRAN NOMINATE A NEW ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL TO SERVE UNTIL OCT 31.

PART III--FPJMT, TPJMC, AND RELATED MATERS

10. THE COMMUNIST BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC SESSIONS EXTENDED INTO ITS ELEVENTH WEEK AS THE DRV AND "PRG" DELEGATIONS CONTINUED THEIR LATEST STALLING TACTIC.

PART IV--COMMUNIST MEDIA COMMENT

11. COMMUNISTS CONDEMN "SPY", "COMMANDO" ACTIVITIES. IN AN AUGUST 30 BROADCAST, LIBERATION RADIO CHARGED THAT THE GVN HAD CONDUCTED 110 RECONNAISSANCE SORTIES OVER COMMUNIST-OCCUPIED NORTHERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE "IN RECENT DAYS". THE BROADCAST ALSO ALLEGED THAT THE GVN HAD SENT "COMMANDO BOATS" TO VIOLATE "THE CUA VIET TERRITORIAL WATERS" ON TWENTY-TWO OCCASIONS.

12. "PRG" STATEMENT BLASTS "UNILATERAL" ICCS PROBES.

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THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN OF THE SO-CALL PRG, IN AN AUGUST 31 STATEMENT, ACCUSED THE IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN ICCS DELEGATIONS OF "COLLUDING WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE NGUYEN VAN THIEU ADMINISTRATION IN CONCEALING THEIR CRIMES AND ...CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM (I.E., THE US AND GVN) TO DISSEMINATE PROPAGANDA AIMED AT DISTORTING THE TRUTH AND SLANDERING THE PRGSV". THIS LATEST BLAST WAS OCCASIONED BY AN AUGUST 30 OBSERVATION MADE BY TEAMS REPRESENTING THE TWO DELEGATIONS AT THE SIGHT OF A NVA ATTACK-BY-FIRE IN BINH DINH PROVINCE. THE SPOKESMAN MAINTAINED THAT "UNILATERAL" INVESTIGATIONS VIOLATE ARTICLE 18-F OF THE AGREEMENT AND ARTICLE 9-A OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE ICCS AND REFLECT A "LACK OF OBJECTIVITY AND IMPARTIALITY ON THE PART OF THE

INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS". IN A CHARMING TWIST OF LOGIC, THE SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED WITH THE DEMAND THAT SUCH INVESTIGATIONS BE ENDED "SO AS TO CONTRIBUTE TO INSURING THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENT IS RESPECTED AND SCRUPULOUSLY IMPLEMENTED".

13. THIS OUTBURST BY THE "PRG" BREAKS A MONTHS' LONG PERIOD OF RELATIVE RESTRAINT IN NVA/"PRG" COMMENT REGARDING THE ICCS. SIMILAR DIATRIBES LAST MAY SPARKED THREATS FROM THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS TO CONSIDER WITHDRAWING FROM THE PEACE KEEPING FORCE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE COMMUNISTS SEIZED UPON THE BINH DINH OBSERVATION AS THE BASIS FOR THEIR VERBAL ASSAULT. THE TWO DELEGATIONS HAD CONDUCTED NUMEROUS OBSERVATIONS ELSE-WHERE WITHOUT, APPARENTLY, RAISING COMMUNIST HACKLES.

PART V-- MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HEADQUARTERS REPORTS THAT THERE WERE 319 COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING THE WEEK, A SLIGHT INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST-INITIATED MILITARY ACTIVITY OCCURRED IN PHU LOC DISTRICT IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE, WHILE THE INTENSITY OF COMMUNIST ACTION IN SOUTHERN QUANG NAM AND QUANG NGAI PROVINCES DECREASED DURING THE WEEK. GVN CASUALTIES: 115 KIA; 107 MIA; 581 WIA (COMMENT: GVN MISSING-IN-ACTION TOTAL DOES NOT REFLECT MORE THAN 300 SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY STILL MISSING FOLLOWING THE FIGHTING IN PHU LOC DISTRICT. END COMMENT) COMMUNIST CASUALTIES: 500 KIA; 13 DETAINED. VNAF FLEW 273 COMBAT AIR SORTIES DURING THE WEEK. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

QUANG TRI REMAINED QUIET. IN PHU LOC DISTRICT, THUA THIEN PROVINCE, THE REGION'S SHARPEST FIGHTING OF THE WEEK TOOK PLACE. COMMUNIST FORCES THERE DROVE ELEMENTS OF TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 3RD ARVN REGIMENT (1ST DIVISION) AND ONE RF BATTALION FROM SEVERAL HILLTOP OUTPOSTS. ACCORDING TO I CORPS FORWARD HEAD-QUARTERS, ENEMY CASUALTIES IN THIS SERIES OF CLASHES WERE 223 KIA. INITIAL GVN CASUALTIES INCLUDED 2 KIA, 27 WIA, AND 478 MIA, SOME OF WHOM RETURNED TO PARENT UNITS. OTHER UNITS IN THE PROVINCE -- THE 6TH AND 8TH MARINE BATTALIONS AND THE 15TH RANGER GROUP -- TOOK SEVERAL SMALL ABF'S AND GROUND ATTACKS. IN A BRIEF FLURRY OF ACTION IN THE HOI MIT AREA, THREE INDEPENDENT RF COMPANIES CAME UNDER COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK.

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3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM, ARVN UNITS (INCLUDING THE 1ST AIRBORNE BRIGADE, THE 2ND, 54TH AND 56TH REGIMENTS IN THE 3RD DIVISION AO, AND THE 4TH AND 57TH REGIMENTS IN 2ND DIVISION AO) WERE IN AN OFFENSIVE POSTURE, PUSHING SLOWLY BACK INTO AREAS SEIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS IN RECENT WEEKS. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE RESPONDED TO THESE OPERATIONS PRIMARILY BY LAUNCHING ABF'S. IN ONE SUCH OPERATION THE 57TH REGIMENT REPORTED KILLING 18 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS IN QUE SON DISTRICT, THE LARGEST SINGLE CLASH IN THE PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK. ONE ROCKET ABF AGAINST DUC DUC DISTRICT REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN A BARRACKS AND 50 HOMES BEING DESTROYED. A HAMLET CHIEF IN HOA HAI VILLAGE, HOA VANG DISTRICT, WAS ASSASSINATED, THE FIRST REPORTED ASSASSINATION IN QUANG NAM IN EIGHT WEEKS.

4. QUANG TIN SAW A FEW SMALL ABF'S AND GROUND CONTACTS, MOSTLY IN THANG BINH DISTRICT. ACTIVITY IN QUANG NGAI TAPERED OFF AND AT THE END OF THE WEEK THAT PROVINCE WAS RELATIVELY QUIET. IN A FOLLOW-UP TO THE CAPTURE OF MINH LONG DISTRICT AND SOUTHERN NGHIA HANH, COMMUNIST FORCES KEPT UP PRESSURE ON OUTPOSTS SOUTH AND WEST OF NGHIA HANH DISTRICT TO\$, OVERRUNNING SEVERAL. AN IMPORTANT RF OUTPOST IN EASTERN BINH SON DISTRICT WAS LOST, ADDING TO RECENT COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN THE AREA.

5. ICCS:

NO OBSERVATIONS OR INVESTIGATIONS WERE REPORTED IN EITHER OF THE ICCS REGIONS IN MR-1.

PART VI--MR-2

1. SUMMARY: FOR THE SECOND WEEK RUNNING MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-II DECLINED BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS (DOWN ABOUT 20 PERCENT FROM A WEEK AGO), AS WELL AS THE INTENSITY OF THE ACTION. THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING OCCURRED AROUND CAMP PLEI ME IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, WHERE ELEMENTS OF SEVERAL REGTS DID BATTLE  
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ON EACH SIDE AND THE NVA FIRED 1,000 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE. THE CAMP  
IS STILL IN ARVN CONTROL AND THE NVA IS REPORTED TO HAVE SUFFERED 105 KIA IN THE FIGHTING. CONTACTS IN BINH DINH WERE RELATIVELY LIGHT AND BATTLEFIELD POSITIONS DID NOT CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY.



THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN MR-II WAS DOWN TO 101 FROM 129, WITH 70 PERCENT IN THE COASTAL ZONE AND 30 PERCENT IN THE HIGHLANDS. BINH DINH AGAIN WAS THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE WITH 64 INCIDENTS. RVNAF LOSSES WERE LOWER, WITH 67 KIA, 312 WIA AND 19 MIA, AS COMPARED TO 88, 316 AND 156 A WEEK EARLIER. NVA/VC CASUALTY FIGURES WERE ALSO DOWN WITH 328 KIA AND 4 CIA; THESE FIGURES WERE 479 AND 4 FOR THE PREVIOUS WEEK. TAC AIR (235) AND VR (267) MISSIONS WERE COMPARABLE TO ONE WEEK AGO.

2. BINH DINH: BOTH THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS AND THE INTENSITY OF MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS DOWN THIS WEEK, ALTHOUGH BINH DINH CONTINUED TO BE THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE IN THE REGION. THE ARVN OFFENSIVE WEST OF BONG SON AND IN WESTERN PHU MY DISTRICT SLOWED ALMOST TO A HALT, AS ARVN FORCES CONTINUED TO PROBE AND ABSORB LIGHT LOSSES IN CONTACT WITH NVA/VC FORCES AND FROM INDIRECT FIRE ATTACKS. BOTH SIDES SEEMED CONTENT TO HOLD THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS, THUS LEAVING THE BATTLEFIELD CONFIGURATION IN THOSE AREAS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. THE PHU CAT DISTRICT BATTLE AREA, CONSISTING OF THE VILLAGES ON THE SOUTHERN PIEDMONTS OF THE NUI BA MOUNTAINS, WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH THE GVN FORCES TAKING CHARGE OF THE BATTLEFIELD AND THE LOCAL FORCE VC BATTALIONS BACKING INTO THE MOUNTAINS. ON THE NORTHERN PIEDMONTS OF THE NUI BA MOUNTAINS THE VC STILL RETAIN CONTROL OF CAT TAI AND CAT MINH VILLAGES. THE VC ALSO ARE NOW EXERTING ENOUGH CONTROL OVER CAT HANH VILLAGE TO RECEIVE ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM THE VILLAGERS. THIS IS SIGNIFICANT SINCE ITS STRATEGIC POSITION ENABLES THE VC TO BLOCK THE APPROACHES TO CAT TAI AND CAT MINH AND TO POSE AN INTERDICTION THREAT TO QL-1. THESE THREE VILLAGES, PLUS CAT HIEP TO THE WEST AND MY CAT FURTHER EAST, HAVE LONG BEEN THE LIAISON-COMMUNICATIONS ROUTE FOR THE COMMUNISTS OUT OF BASE AREA 226 EAST TO THE MOUNTAINS AND THE PORT OF DE GI.

3. PLEIKU: NVA ATTACKS ON PLEI ME AND FIRE BASE 711 CONTINUE, BUT BOTH ARE STILL HOLDING. THE FORMER HAS BEEN UNDER ATTACK ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY FOR FOUR WEEKS BY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE AND GROUND ASSAULTS. ACTIVITY WAS PARTICULARLY HEAVY THIS WEEK, CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH 1,000 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE BEING FIRED BY THE NVA IN AND AROUND PLEI ME. THE 1ST AND 3RD BNS OF THE 53RD ARVN REGT MOVED INTO POSITIONS SEVERAL KILOMETERS NORTH NORTHEAST OF PLEI ME TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON THE MAIN CAMP, WHILE THE 1ST AND 2ND BNS OF THE 48TH REGT OF THE NVA 320TH DIV MANEUVERED TO BLOCK THIS MOVE. ARVN HAS REPORTED 105 NVA KIA AS A RESULT OF THE PLEI ME ACTION. AT 0310 HOURS AUGUST 28, VC/NVA SAPPERS ATTACKED THE CU HANH AIR BASE IN PLEIKU, HQS OF THE VNAF 6TH AIR DIVISION. A BUNKER AND TWO TRUCKS MOUNTED WITH 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS WERE DESTROYED. THE SAPPERS INFILTRATED AND EXFILTRATED THE AIR BASE PROPER WITHOUT SUFFERING ANY CASUALTIES. STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO IMPROVE BASE SECURITY.

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

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4. KONTUM: ACTIVITY IN OTHER PROVINCES SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN THE PRESSURE OFF KONTUM, WHICH HAD ONE OF ITS MOST INACTIVE WEEKS IN LITERALLY YEARS. INDICATIONS WERE THAT ELEMENTS OF VC/NVA RECONNAISSANCE AND MORTAR UNITS CONTINUED TO STAY CLOSE TO AND OBSERVE RVNAF POSITIONS AROUND KONTUM CITY. SECTOR OFFICIALS STILL BELIEVE THAT CHUONG NGHIA WILL BE THE NEXT TARGET, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT EXPECT AN ATTACK UNTIL LATER THIS MONTH. THE 45TH REGT OF THE 23RD DIVISION HAS TRANSFERRED TO PLEIKU, WHILE THE DIVISION'S 44TH REGT HAS REOCCUPIED ITS FORMER POSITION NORTHEAST OF KONTUM CITY.

5. PHU YEN: THERE WERE FEWER CLASHES WITH VC/NVA UNITS THIS WEEK, AS THE COMMUNISTS OPTED FOR THE LESS AGGRESSIVE TACTIC OF MINING LOCS AND CONDUCTING INDIRECT MORTAR FIRE AGAINST RVNAF POSITIONS. THIS LULL IN FIGHTING IS COMPARABLE TO THAT WHICH OCCURRED FOLLOWING THE VC/NVA OFFENSIVE IN MID-JULY. THE EARLIER RESPITE WAS USED BY THE COMMUNISTS TO RESUPPLY AND REGROUP THEIR FORCES PRIOR TO THE ASSAULT ON RVNAF FROM AUGUST 15 TO 25. INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT THE CURRENT BREAK MAY BE SHORT-LIVED, WITH NEW VC/NVA OFFENSIVE ACTIVITY TO COMMENCE SHORTLY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMUNIST HOLIDAYS DURING SEPTEMBER. IT IS EXPECTED THAT A LARGE PART OF THE NEAR-TERM COMMUNIST OBJECTIVE WILL BE THE APPROACHING RICE HARVEST IN TUY AN DISTRICT AND THE TUY HOA AND HIEN XUONG VALLEYS.

6. DARLAC: THE COMMUNIST CONTINUED TO HARASS RVNAF POSITIONS ALONG QL-14, WITH TWO SHELLINGS ON FIRE BASE 34 ON AUGUST 29 INVOLVING

80 ROUNDS OF 82 MM MORTAR, FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ASSAULT DURING WHICH THE COMMUNISTS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SUFFERED 6 KIA. THERE WERE NO RVNAF CASUALTIES, AND THE BASE WAS SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED. ON AUGUST 30 SECTOR LAUNCHED WHAT IS INTENDED TO BE AN EIGHT DAY, TWO BATTALION OPERATION NORTHEAST OF QUANG NHIEU ON THE FRINGE OF BASE AREA 238. THE AO INCLUDES AN AREA WHICH IS THE SUSPECTED BASE OF THE BANDIT GROUP OPERATING ALONG QL-14 BETWEEN BAN ME THUOT AND BUON HO. THE OPERATION IS INTENDED TO DISRUPT POSSIBLE ENEMY ATTACKS AND SUPPRESS BANDITRY.

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7. KHANH HOA: ACTIVITY WAS GENERALLY VERY LIGHT, BUT THERE WERE TWO NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS. AT 0505 HOURS AUGUST 29 COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRED THREE ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKETS INTO THE WESTERN SIDE OF NHA TRANG AIRFIELD. ON THE SAME DATE AT 0230 HOURS COMMUNIST FORCES BLEW UP THE LATEX PROCESSING PLANT AT THE DONG TRANG RUBBER PLANTATION IN XUAN KHANH HAMLET OF DIEN KHANH DISTRICT (BP 829 588). THE PLANT HAD BEEN IN OPERATION JUST OVER TWO MONTHS.

8. OTHER PROVINCES: NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY TO REPORT.

9. ICCS: A COMPLAINT WAS PRESENTED CONCERNING THE DESTRUCTION OF FOUR ELECTRIC TOWERS (ZT 167757) IN LAM DONG PROVINCE THAT WERE ATTACKED BY A COMPANY-SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE AUGUST 24, BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE ABOUT IT. THE GVN HAS INDICATED THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO THIS INCIDENT BY DEPLOYING 2 BATTALIONS OF ARVN POWER LINE SECURITY TROOPS TO THE PROVINCE.

PART VII--MR-3

1. THE WEEK SAW A PAUSE IN THE THREE PRINCIPAL AREAS OF COMMUNIST MAIN FORCE PRESSURE - NORTHERN BIEN HOA, THE BEN CAT AREA OF BINH DUONG, AND TAY NINH. NVA/VC ACTIVITY CONSISTED MAINLY OF ABF'S AND GROUND ATTACKS ON OUTPOSTS AND FORWARD TROOP POSITIONS AS WELL AS ROAD INTERDICTIONS. HANOI'S SEPT 2 NATIONAL DAY PASSED WITHOUT MAJOR INCIDENT. INCIDENTS DECLINED TO 302 FROM LAST WEEK'S CEASEFIRE HIGH OF 399. THE BIEN HOA AREA HAD NO ROCKET ATTACK DURING THE WEEK. AT WEEK'S END GVN FORCES INSTITUTED A MAJOR COUNTERACTION AGAINST NVA FORCES (209TH REGT, 7TH DIV) ABOUT 15 KMS NE OF BIEN HOA WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PUSHING THE COMMUNISTS BACK OUT OF ROCKET AND ARTILLERY RANGE OF BIEN HOA AIRBASE.

2. THE LEVEL OF MILITARY INCIDENTS DECLINED TO 302 FROM THE CEASEFIRE HIGH OF 399 LAST WEEK. BINH DUONG HAD THE GREATEST NUMBER WITH 92 (119 LAST WEEK), WHILE TAY NINH REPORTED 78. BIEN HOA AND BINH LONG HAD 61 AND 19 RESPECTIVELY. MR-3 HQ REPORTED 58 GROUND ATTACKS (72 LAST PERIOD), 187 ATTACKS BY FIRE (244 LAST WEEK), AND 5 COMBINED GROUND AND ABF'S. THERE WERE 18 MINING INCIDENTS AND 28 INCIDENTS OF SMALL ARMS HARASSMENT.

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3. NVA/VC ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ROUNDS FIRED DECREASED TO 2,221 FROM LAST WEEK'S 2,829. RVNAF ARTILLERY FIRED SUBSTANTIALLY LESS - 45,170 ROUNDS COMPARED WITH 64,810 LAST WEEK. VNAF FLEW 277 FIXED-WING SORTIES (303 LAST WEEK) AND 309 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP SORTIES. HEAVIEST VNAF ACTION WAS IN WESTERN TAY NINH AND NORTHERN BIEN HOA PROVINCES.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01

DPW-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /188 W

----- 020815

R 041040Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8384

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

4. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 67 KIA, 376 WIA, AND 12 MIA FOR THIS PERIOD, WHILE NVA/VC LOSSES WERE SET AT 278 KIA, 1 CIA, AND 9 RALLIERS. TAY NINH PROVINCE REPORTED 8 MILITARY ESCAPEES FROM NVA/VC CONTROLLED AREAS. SEPARATELY, VNAF CLAIMS 521 KILLED BY AIR.

5. IN TAY NINH PROVINCE ENEMY PRESSURE IN THE FORM OF ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), LIMITED GROUND CONTACTS, AND HAMLET PENETRATIONS CONTINUED IN 4 AREAS: WEST OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER; IN THE BEN CAU AREA; ALONG ROUTE 22 SOUTHEAST OF TAY NINH; AND IN THE SUOI DA AREA NORTHEAST OF TAY NINH CITY. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 275TH NVA REGT SOUTH OF BEN SOI AND THE 205TH TO THE NORTH MAY HAVE JOINED THE E-6 REGT TO THREATEN THE BEN SOI AREA. AN ENEMY FORCE BELIEVED TO BE THE 174TH REGT OF THE 5TH NVA DIV HAS APPEARED TO THE WEST OF BEN CAU AND MAY ATTACK THERE. A COMPANY-SIZE ENEMY FORCE BELIEVED TO BE AN ELEMENT OF THE D-16 LOCAL FORCE BN PENETRATED TRUONG XUAN AND TRUONG LUU HAMLETS 7 KMS SOUTHEAST OF PHU KHUONG ALONG LTL 26 AND HELD THEM UNTIL AN RF CLEARING ACTION PUSHED THEM OUT WITH A FRIENDLY LOSS OF 3 KIA, 4 WIA, AND 15 MIA.

6. BINH DUONG PROVINCE EXPERIENCED SMALL ENEMY GROUND CONTACTS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE IN AND AROUND BEN CAT, THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE IRON TRIANGLE, FRIENDLY OUTPOSTS ALONG ROUTE 13, AND MINOR ABF'S AGAINST SONG BE BRIDGE IN PHU GIAO DISTRICT. MR-3 HQ ANALYSTS CONCLUDED AT THE END OF THE REPORTING WEEK THAT 2 BNS OF THE 141ST REGT (7TH NVA DIV) ARE WEST OF BEN CAT, AND THAT THE 95-C REGT (9TH NVA DIV) HAS WITHDRAWN FROM ITS FORWARD POSITIONS AT OP 82 AND RACH BAP.

7. IN THE THIRD MAJOR AREA OF NVA/VC PRESSURE, BIEN HOA PROVINCE NORTH OF BIEN HOA AIRBASE, ATTACKS ON SMALL OUTPOSTS AND FORWARD TROOP DEPLOYMENTS CONTINUED BUT THE WEEK PASSED WITHOUT FURTHER ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST THE AIRBASE AND BIEN HOA CITY. AT WEEK'S END, THE GVN WAS ENGAGED IN COUNTERACTION BY THE 43RD ARVN REGT NORTH OF THE DONG NAI RIVER WEST OF THAI HUNG VILLAGE (YT 1022)

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TO REDUCE THE NVA/VC THREAT IN THIS AREA AND PUSH COMMUNIST FORCES OUT OF ROCKET AND ARTILLERY RANGE OF THE AIRBASE.

8. COMMUNIST FORCES WHICH INTERDICTED QL 1 THROUGHOUT SEPT 1 4 KMS EAST OF THE LONG KHANH/BINH TUY BORDER WERE CLEARED AT 1800 HOURS THAT DAY BY RF FORCES AND TRAFFIC MOVED FREELY THE FOLLOWING DAY. ROADBLOCKS SET UP AT 5 POINTS ON MAIN ROADS IN LONG KHANH ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 31 WERE CLEARED THE FOLLOWING MORNING. ONE OF THESE, 7 KMS EAST OF XUAN LOC, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE POTENT 33RD NVA REGT ONLY ABOUT 700 METERS SOUTH OF ROUTE QL 1. A SEARCH OPERATION THERE ON SEPT 2 LED TO DISCOVERY OF A BUNKER COMPLEX, 33 NVA BODIES INCLUDING A DEPUTY COMPANY COMMANDER (2ND CO, 7TH BN, 33RD REGT) AND CAPTURED PAPERS.

9. ICCS: THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION MADE CHANGES IN REPRESENTATIVES IN XUAN LOC AND CU CHI TEAM SITES THIS WEEK. ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, THE FOUR DELEGATIONS OF THE ICCS MET UNDER IRANIAN CHAIRMANSHIP TO DISCUSS A LIST OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE TPJMC. THE TPJMC REQUESTED THAT THESE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS BE "CONSIDERED". THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS WANTED A CLARIFICATION AND INTERPRETATION OF WHAT "CONSIDERED" MEANT BEFORE THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE AND THE MEETING BROKE DOWN ON THIS POINT. ACCORDING TO INDODEL, THE IRANIAN DELEGATION IN XUAN LOC HAS ASKED TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE XUAN LOC TEAM SITE, AND THE REGION V IRANIAN DELEGATION MET THEIR IRANIAN SUPERIORS IN SAIGON SEPT 1 TO REQUEST AGREEMENT TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF IRANIANS FROM TEAM SITES IN LAM SON AND CU CHI BECAUSE OF PRESENT SECURITY CONDITIONS. INDODEL DID NOT KNOW IN EITHER CASE WHAT RESPONSE HAD BEEN GIVEN. THERE WERE NO "OBSERVATIONS" OR INSPECTIONS DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD BY ANY OF THE REGION V ICCS DELEGATIONS.

PART VIII--MR-4

1. SECURITY SITUATION (A) OVERALL SECURITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINED SHARPLY THROUGHOUT THE DELTA. KIEN PHONG IS THE ONLY PROVINCE WHICH CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE HEAVY VC/NVA PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY IN KIEN VAN AND EASTERN CAO LANH DISTRICTS. ELSEWHERE, THE HIGHPOINT WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO COINCIDE WITH NVA INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF HO CHI MINH'S DEATH FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, PROBABLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT LUNAR ILLUMINATION WAS HIGHEST

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ON THOSE TWO DAYS. FOR THE WEEK, CORPS REPORTS 237 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (428 LAST WEEK), CONSISTING OF 24 GROUND ATTACKS (71), ONE INFILTRATION (NONE), 141 ABF'S (250), 60 HARASSMENTS (91), 5 SABOTAGE (8), AND 6 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (8). GVN LOSSES DECLINED TO 120 KIA (223), 651 WIA (872), 9 MIA (64), AND 3 CREW-SERVED (8), AND 164 INDIVIDUAL (266) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 482 VC/NVA KILLED (634), 91 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (16), AND 16 CREW-SERVED (8) AND 177 INDIVIDUAL (157) WEAPONS SEIZED.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01

DPW-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /188 W

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R 041040Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8385

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON



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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE REMAINED HIGH AS VC/NVA PRESSURE ON KIEN VAN (D) AND EASTERN CAO LANH (D) MOUNTED. TRA BONG OB, 6 KM EAST OF THE PROVINCE CAPITAL, WAS OVERRUN DURING THE FIFTH GROUND ATTACK AGAINST IT WITH 5 GVN KIA AND 48 WIA. THE OB WAS RETAKEN THE NEXT DAY. KINH XANG MOI OB, 5 KIM NE OF KIEN VAN DISTRICT TOWN, WAS ABANDONED AT A COST OF ONE RF KIA, 4 WIA, AND 4 MIA. IN AN ATTACK ON THE SAME OB THREE DAYS EARLIER, VC/NVA ATTACKERS (BELIEVED TO BE FROM THE 261-B BATTALION/DONG THAP I REGIMENT) LOST 44 KILLED AGAINST GVN LOSSES OF 6 KIA AND 12 WIA. KIEN VAN DISTRICT HQ RECEIVED 10 ROUNDS OF 82MM WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS; ALL OTHER ABF'S WERE AGAINST RF OR PF OUTPOSTS. ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE DECREASED SHARPLY. ONE OB IN AN THAI TRUNG (V), GIAO DUC (D) WAS OVERRUN, AND TWO MINES EXPLODED ON ROUTE 30 IN THE SAME VILLAGE, ONE OF THEM WOUNDING 4 ARVN SOLDIERS AND HEAVILY DAMAGING AN APC. THREE CHILDREN WERE KILLED AND FIVE WOUNDED WHEN A GRENADE EXPLODED IN FRONT OF HAU PHU VILLAGE TEMPLE, HAU MY (D). A COMBINED NP/12TH REGIMENT OPERATION IN MY THANH (V), HAU MY (D), KILLED 33 VC WHILE GVN CASUALTIES WERE 7 KIA AND 15 WIA. KIEN TUONG PROVINCE WAS QUIET, WITH GVN PATROLS ACCOUNTING FOR 80 PERCENT OF THE INCIDENTS. GVN FORCES STILL HAVE NOT RETAKEN SIX OUTPOSTS ALONG THE CUNG CANAL IN KIEN BINH (D). CHAU DOC AND GO CONG PROVINCES WERE QUIET.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: KIEN HOA PROVINCE HAD ANOTHER QUIET WEEK WITH TWO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED: A JOINT POLICE/MILITARY OPERATION NEAR THE PHUOC HUNG/TRUC GIANG/GIONG TROM DISTRICT BORDER INTERSECTION RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF 54 VC AND VI; AND A VC DISGUISED AS A CAO DAI MONK ASSASSINATED THE PHUOC THANH SUB-SUBSECTOR COMMANDER (TRUC GIANG DISTRICT) ON ROUTE 37 AT NOON. IN VINH BINH PROVINCE, THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENT WAS THE FIRING OF FOUR 60MM MORTARS INTO BINH PHU VILLAGE, (CAN LONG DISTRICT), KILLING ONE RF. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, GVN PATROLS INFLICTED LIGHT VC/NVA CASUALTIES. ACTIVITY IN VINH LONG PROVINCE DECLINED SHARPLY.

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TWO ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR FIRED INTO THE 9TH DIVISION TRAINING

CENTER IN DONG THANH (V), BINH MINH (D) WOUNDED TWELVE TRAINEES. A CONTACT IN AN DUC (V), CHAU THANH (D) RESULTED IN 5 PF KIA; THE INCIDENT OCCURRED ON ROUTE 7A IN AN AREA OF FREQUENT HARASSMENT OF TRAFFIC. SA DEC PROVINCE WAS QUIET, BUT ONE INCIDENT OCCURRED DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF DUC TON DISTRICT HQ WHEN VC DIRECTED M79 AND AK47 FIRE INTO A TAX CHECKPOINT ON ROUTE 8A. ONE PF WAS KILLED, AND A POLICEMAN, MILITARY POLICEMAN AND TAX CADRE WERE WOUNDED. IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, THE ONLY GVN POSITION UNDER SIGNIFICANT VC/NVA PRESSURE WAS CONG DAT OB IN THOI LAI (V), THUAN TRUNG (D) WHICH WAS SHELLED FOUR TIMES; TWO GVN SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED. ALL ARVN DIVISION TROOPS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK. ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE DECLINED. THOI AN VILLAGE HQ (KIEN BINH DISTRICT) WAS SHELLED SEVERAL TIMES AND REPULSED ONE GROUND ATTACK, WHILE THREE OTHER VILLAGE HQ'S IN KIEN BINH WERE SHELLED. TWO GVN POSITIONS WERE ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE, ONE A WATCHTOWER IN BINH AN (V), KIEN THANH (D), THE OTHER AN OB IN TIN DAO (V), KIEN LUONG (D). AN GIANG PROVINCE REMAINED QUIET.

(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, VC/NVA PRESSURE DECREASED EVERYWHERE BUT TAN LOC (V), QUAN LONG (D). RF/PF LAUNCHED AN OPERATION THERE FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF AN OUTPOST LAST WEEK BUT WERE STALLED BY THE AMBUSH OF A PF UNIT. THREE PF AND THE SUB-SUBSECTOR CHIEF WERE KILLED, THREE WOUNDED AND SIX REPORTED MISSING. ANOTHER RF/PF SWEEP IN THOI BINH (V), THOI BINH (D) KILLED 11 VC/NVA AT A COST OF ONE GVN SOLDIER WOUNDED. ACTIVITY IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE DROPPED SHARPLY, BUT BOOBY-TRAP INCIDENTS HAVE INCREASED STEADILY AS RICE-PLANTING CONFINES TROOP MOVEMENTS TO RICE DIKES. A COMBINED VNN/RF/PF OPERATION IN PHONG THANH (V), GIA RAI (D) RESULTED IN 13 VC/NVA KILLED WITH NO GVN CASUALTIES. S-2 REPORTS THAT THE VC PHU LOI I BATTALION HAS NOT BEEN SIGHTED IN ITS NORMAL AO IN NORHTERN VINH CHAU DISTRICT FOR SEVERAL DAYS. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, THREE MORE ROCKETS HIT VI THANH, TWO OF THEM IN AN AREA 50-75 METERS FROM THE PROVINCE HQ: THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES OR SIGNIFICANT

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TOWN AND A THIRD CONTACT 5 KIM NW OF NGA NAM DISTRICT TOWN RESULTED IN 10 VC KIA AND NO GVN CASUALTIES. LEHMANN

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 6 OF 6 SAIGON 11567; (#) OMISSION PARA. (D). CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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